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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/602,903	06/24/2003	Darrell L. Metz	8266-1084	2178

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EXAMINER

WEINHOLD, INGRID M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3632

DATE MAILED: 02/12/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/602,903	METZ ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Ingrid M Weinhold	3632	MLW

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 June 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>9/29/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 9/29/03 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement has been considered by the examiner.

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because:

1) On Page 1, lines 4-5, the phrase "Application Serial No. 09/874,486, filed June 5, 2001" needs to be replaced by --6,585,206 B2--, since a patent was issued for that application.

2) On Page 9, line 29, a new paragraph begins on the same line as the last line of the previous paragraph. The new paragraph needs to begin on a new line.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Regarding claim 5, there is insufficient antecedent basis for "the coupler".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-4, 7, 8, 10-13, 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sims et al. (4,945,592) in view of Jost et al. (4,905,944). Sims shows a hospital bed comprising a frame, a plurality of casters supporting the frame, a patient support surface coupled to the frame, the patient support surface having a first end, a second end, and opposing first and second sides each extending between the first end and the second end, a first handle (40) positioned adjacent the first end and the first side of the patient support surface, and a first coupler (28) configured to operably couple the first handle to the frame. The handle is supported for pivoting movement about a vertical axis of rotation to permit a caregiver to apply a moving force to the patient support. While not shown, Sims discloses in column 4, lines 8-11 that the bed comprises two connections (16), one on either side of the same end of the bed, therefore it is inherent that two handles with the same configurations can be attached to the bed at the same time and therefore only one handle will be discussed in detail since it is to be understood that the second handle will have the same structure. Sims, however, does not show a handle with a movable grip. Jost shows a handle (10) with a grip portion (70) coupled to the handle, and an accessory (12) coupled to the handle.

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The handle includes an outer telescoping member and the accessory includes an inner telescoping member, which is movable relative to the outer telescoping member to adjust a position of the inner telescoping member relative to the handle. The grip portion (70) is supported for vertical sliding movement and for rotational movement relative to the handle. A stop (16) is coupled to the outer telescoping member, the stop defining a limit for movement of the grip portion. The accessory comprises an IV pole and further comprises an infusion pump coupled to the IV pole. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have replaced one known handle/IV pole (12) as taught by Sims with another well-known handle/IV pole as taught by Jost in order to be able to easily adjust the vertical positioning of the grip and IV pole.

Claims 5, 6, and 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sims et al. (4,945,592) in view of Jost et al. (4,905,944) and further in view of Dennis (4,886,237). Sims and Jost combined show all features claimed by the applicant's invention including a body (Sims "18") coupled to the handle, the coupler (Sims "28") being configured to couple the body to the frame for pivotable movement about an axis of rotation, but does not however show a latch configured to lock the body in place. Dennis shows a body (20), which attaches a handle/IV pole to a bed frame with a coupler, or clutch (pivotal mounting in center of bracket "11"), which is configured to couple the body to the frame, hold the body in a desired position with respect to the frame and permits movement of the body relative to the frame when a predetermined

force is applied to the body. Dennis comprises a latch (15) configured to lock the body selectively in one of a plurality of different positions relative to the frame. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have replaced one well known pivoting attachment system (Sims "18" and "28") as taught by Sims and Jost combined, with another well-known pivoting attachment system ("20" and "11") as taught by Dennis, in order to allow the handle/IV pole to be locked in place.

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sims et al. (4,945,592) in view of Jost et al. (4,905,944) and further in view of Wadley (5,556,065). Sims and Jost show all features claimed by the applicant's invention but do not however show one of the accessories being an oxygen tank holder. Handles and IV pole in hospitals are known to have many different types of accessories attached to them so this is the applicant's design choice. Wadley is used to show a handle (96) with many accessories including an oxygen tank holder, which comprises a coupler (110) and an oxygen tank support ("106" and "112") coupled to the coupler, the oxygen tank support being configured to receive and support an oxygen tank (115). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included an oxygen tank support as one of the accessories as taught by Wadley on the handle/IV pole taught by Sims and Jost combined as a matter of design choice and medical needs in the hospital.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.


Metz et al.	U.S. Patent	6,585,206
Stith	U.S. Patent	4,584,989
McBarnes, Jr. et al.	U.S. Patent	5,094,418
Pryor et al.	U.S. Patent	5,344,169
Beney	U.S. Patent	4,768,241
Gallant et al.	U.S. Patent	6,360,389 B1
Reeder	U.S. Patent	5,388,294
Riley et al.	U.S. App Pub	2003/0037375 A1
Nelson et al.	U.S. Patent	5,375,276
Heimbrock	U.S. Patent	6,668,402 B2
Bennett et al.	U.S. Patent	5,421,548


The above patents all show beds with accessory attachments.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ingrid M Weinhold whose telephone number is 703-306-5762. The examiner can normally be reached on 5:30 AM - 2:00 PM Eastern Time.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leslie Braun can be reached on 703-308-2156. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Ingrid M Weinhold
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3632
02/06/04


LESLIE A. BRAUN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER